

Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

Newsletter to Members 2016 SUMMER...ISSUE #3/4

Discovering our history,
Preserving our past,
Sharing our stories.



The premiere of the film,
"The Roosevelt" inspired the School
Days theme for this year's benefit!

Ames Historical Society Board:

Co-President	Mary Atherly
Co-President	Kathy Svec
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Treasurer	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Shannon Bardole, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Peter Hallock, Mary Logsdon, Carol Phillips, Ryan Riley, Ardy Ulrichson, Sharon Wirth, Hank Zaletel
The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

Staff:

Executive Director	Casie Vance
Projects Coordinator	Alex Fejfar
Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord.	Hannah Frederick

Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance,
Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

Headquarters: 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010

Hours: Open Mon-Fri, 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm

Mail: PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

Phone: 515-232-2148

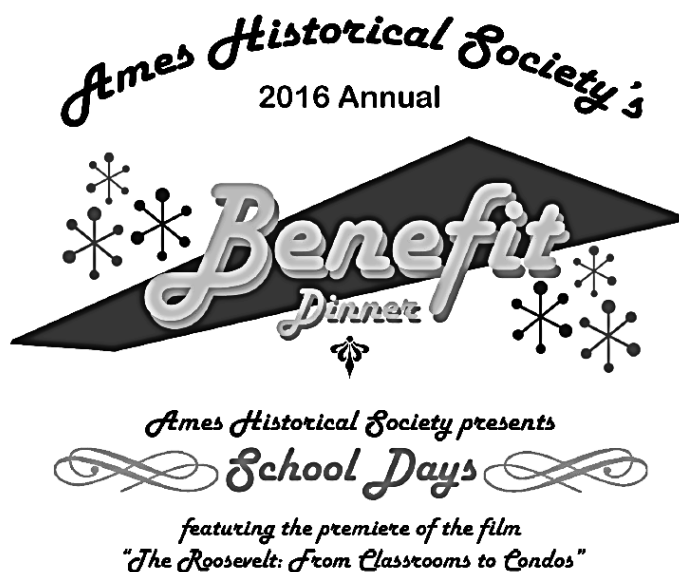
E-mail: info@ameshistory.org

Website: www.AmesHistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. It is open 2-4pm on Sundays, June to August 21 and by apt. April to October.



You're Invited to Our Annual Benefit!

Celebrate Ames history with an evening of
entertaining school-themed activities,
presentation of the Farwell T. Brown Award,
a live auction by Ted Tedesco and John Klaus of
unique community experiences *

AND

the premiere of a new documentary film
by Teresa Larson and Alex Fejfar:

THE ROOSEVELT: FROM CLASSROOMS TO CONDOS

Saturday, August 27

Social – 5:30 pm; Dinner – 6:00 pm; Program following

at the Oakwood Road Community Center,
2400 Oakwood Road in Ames

\$60 per person; proceeds benefit programs & operations

Buffet Dinner will include chicken, pork and vegetarian options
Please indicate dietary restrictions in your reply.

Reply by Thursday, August 18 using the form on page 8
or you may make your reservations through our website.

* Those fabulous auction items are: Dinner and tours for up to 8 at The Roosevelt; An afternoon at the Train Farm; A broom or soap-making experience; A consultation/advice on yard and garden; A custom-made family memory box; Passes to OLLI's Lecture Series

Programs at Hoggatt School



Grand re-opening June 19

With its new foundation, new sidewalk and new coat of paint, Hoggatt School is back and better than ever!

Please join us on the grounds of Meeker School, 18th and Burnett, for special programs on Sunday afternoons.

● Civil War-Era Games

Sunday, August 7: 2:00-4:00 pm

● What's in Your Lunchbox?

by Carol Alexander Phillips

Sunday, August 14: 2:15 pm

What foods did 1860s school children eat for lunch?

What time was dinner?

How did prairie life affect the food choices?

● Hoggatt School Open House

Sunday, August 21, 2:00-4:00 pm

Sit in a desk, write on a slate, read a textbook from the 1860s, ring the school bell – experience school life in 1862!

Hoggatt School will be open Sundays through August 21, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, or by appointment through October 31 (call 515-232-2148).



"Schoolmarm" Carol Phillips greets visitors

"Expansion" Exhibit Programs

The current History Center exhibit looks back 100 years to 1915-16 when four iconic buildings were constructed: 1915 City Hall-Municipal Building, Mary Greeley Hospital, Masonic Building, the Sheldon-Munn Hotel. The exhibit will be on view to Sat., October 29.

— A Time of — **EXPANSION** THE AMES BUILDING BOOM OF 1915-1916

FREE EXHIBIT-RELATED PROGRAMS

Aug. 25 & Sept. 22 at Ames Public Library Auditorium,
Oct. 25 at Octagon Center for the Arts

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 7:00 PM

A Time of Expansion:

Life in Ames a Hundred Years Ago

By Alex Fejfar and Hannah Frederick, Society staff

By 1916, Ames had experienced a decade of growth and infrastructure improvements. Enrollment at the college had increased, roads were paved, a new sewer system was installed and a new power plant was approved. Ames got its first electric street car, hospital and first-class hotel. The presenters will relate what it would have been like to experience those changes.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 7:00 PM

A Hundred Years on Main Street:

The Story of the Sheldon-Munn Hotel

By John Lott, Head Architect, Benjamin Designs

"New Sheldon-Munn Hotel is the Finest in the Middle West," read the June 6, 1916 headline. Ames had been in need of modern lodging and after debate and planning, Ames was finally getting a state-of-the-art hotel. The Sheldon-Munn has undergone many renovations in the past 100 years and Benjamin Design architectural firm is working to once again update the hotel. Hear the Sheldon-Munn's history and future plans.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7:00 PM

Celebrating 50 Years of the Octagon

By Martha Benson, Octagon Founder

The Octagon Center for the Arts is celebrating 50 years of artistic service to Ames. The organization, founded by Veronika Ruedenberg, Martha Benson, Priscilla Sage and Janet Harris Squires, began in an octagonal house in 1966. It quickly outgrew the space and moved to downtown Ames. Benson will share the organization's history and present a new anniversary documentary film by Andrew Neighbor.

Partnering with Ames Public Library & Octagon; supported by the Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau's Community Grant Program.

More Events!

Fill your calendar with a variety of special events from the Ames Historical Society:

Sunday, September 25

Octagon Art Festival Open House

10 am-5 pm, at the History Center.

View the "Expansion" exhibit; browse our Gift Shop!



Thursday, September 29

Music Walk Open House,
5-8 pm, at the History Center

Tuesday, October 18

Members After Hours at the History Center

7-8:30 pm (members only)



Friday, November 11

Snow Magic Kickoff, 5-8pm (open house)

Saturday, December 3

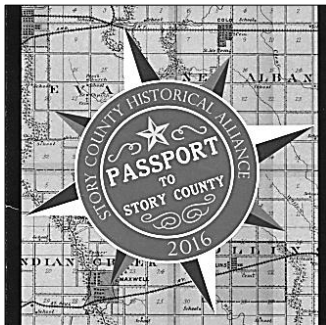
Old-Fashioned Christmas with Santa, 11am-2pm



Pick Up a Story County Passport!

It's not too late to explore local historical treasures. Pick up a "Passport to Story County" and visit eleven locations through-out the county. Stamped

passports completed by September 12 will be put into a drawing for a Story County-themed gift basket. The free passport is available now at the Ames History Center.



Ames Hosts IMA Conference

Residents interested in attending the 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference of the Iowa Museum Association in Ames October 16-18 can view the program line-up at www.iowamuseums.org. Events will be at the Scheman Building and on campus and the Society will host several open houses for attendees. A great way to sample what's going on in museums throughout the state!

Society News

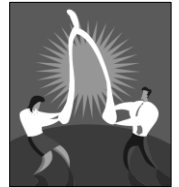
News briefs

- **Two new hallway exhibits** at the History Center are Native American Tools and Early Cars in Ames.
- Join the 1502 people who "like" us on Facebook.
- The **History Trailer** will again travel to the Main Street Farmers' Market on the last Saturdays of July, August and September. Stop by between 8 am and 12:30 pm to see the interesting artifacts on display – new items each month.

Society Wish List

Special thanks to Sharon Wirth for extending our subscription to newspaperarchive.com.

She wrote, "I have enclosed a donation to extend the Newspaper Archives subscription. I and others have used this resource numerous times in our research for the Plaques for Historic Buildings Program. It is an invaluable resource! I cannot imagine how we would have found the information we needed without it. This is an incredible service provided by the Society."



Other wishes:

- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Funds for a 2nd humidifier w/ auto-shutoff ~\$185
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)
- Old-fashioned kids' games (example: jacks, marbles, dominoes)
- Funding to build a special computer for Shared Stories oral histories (\$1,500)

Let us know: 515-232-2148 or info@ameshistory.org

Billy Sunday Gift

After his June 28 lecture on Ames-born evangelist, Billy Sunday, author Craig Bishop presented the Society with a framed picture of Sunday leading one of his huge revivals. It will be an important addition to our materials on Sunday. Bishop's picture-packed, large-format book, *Billy Sunday, the Baseball Evangelist (1862-1935)* was published in June. The Society has a copy in its reference collection. In addition, there is a generous amount of material in our archives on Sunday, who was born on the Cory family farm south of Ames.



Book Sale: Behind the Scenes

Local piano tuner and avid reader, Gilbert Martin and his wife, Ella were moving and needed to quickly do something with their extensive book collection. At an arts event, Gil encountered emeritus staff member, Dennis Wendell, who had a suggestion. Why not donate them to the Society for their annual book sale? This was the perfect solution! Dennis recruited Alan



Spohnheimer, Neal Tarman, Eric Wierson and Hannah Frederick to help move the 38 boxes. The books were in excellent condition and provided quality selections for book sale customers. The sale brought in just under \$1,000 - a new record! Big thanks to Gil and Ella and all our other book donors – and buyers!

Historical Plaque Walking Tour

The Historical Plaque Walking Tour Committee thanks all those who made the June 4 downtown tour a big success. In addition to the Society, the Committee



thanked the 20 building plaque owners, First National Bank for loaning its portable popcorn machine, popcorn attendants Amy Abrams and Andrea Gronau, Evert's Flowers for the flower cart and carnations, David Wilder for his organ "grinding" and the cast of characters played by Jason Paul, Roger Berger (above as Wallace Greeley), Lynette Spicer, Mike Gilger, Ed Goedeken, Clark Ford, Mary Darrow, Jan Cook and Joey Leinen. The Committee was Sharon Wirth, Jason Dietzenbach and Judy Gilger. When it is reprinted, the tour pamphlet will be available in various locations downtown for self-guided downtown walks.

Carr's Pool Lecture Postscript

As it often happens at our lectures, audience members add to our store of information. The May 24 talk on the Carr Family and Carr's Pool brought out these stories:

Margaret Vance, Ames: "I taught swimming at Carr's Pool for several summers and for many years it was a tradition with my mom, sister and me to go to the pool for a swim after church on Sundays when we usually had the pool almost to ourselves - so we got well acquainted with Dad Carr. He was a kind and friendly man. Mostly I remember his smile. The image [in the slide show] of him leaning over the edge of the pool



interacting with children fits my memory of him perfectly. When my dad (Austin Getz) was serving as Ames' City Sanitarian, he and Dad Carr were at odds for a time

over the cleanliness of the water. I don't know more about that except that it was a big problem for a while - and that the issue was finally resolved."

A woman who lived on Meadowlane near the pool remembered the \$60 family season pass – cheap entertainment for a whole summer! Her children were often at the pool multiple times a day.

George Montgomery, Ames, remembered the chained together fence posts that floated between the deep and shallow ends. Unlike today, you could hang on them for hours if you wanted to.

Many remembered the hill to Carr's – how hard it was to go up especially after the City laid down a new layer of pea gravel.

Most rewarding was this note received prior to the lecture from Cheri Carr, Wisconsin:

"I am a Carr descendant. My Great Grandpa Carr was Emmet Carr's brother and I will be in town for the presentation. There were several Carr family members in Ames earlier this month for a memorial service for my father, Steve Carr. We went to the 16th Street hill, Carr Drive and of course, the location of the pool. We all took pictures and reminisced. My Uncle Don said there were TWO tops in the pool and I said I only remembered one, but the picture on your flyer confirmed both tops! "

In Search of Her Father

Sometimes at the Society, we are deeply rewarded for being in the local history business!

In the 2014 summer newsletter, we published a story about David Sills, the only firefighter in Ames to lose his life while on fire duty. It was researched and written by Josh Bennet, currently a member of the Ames F.D.

In the way that Ames connects to faraway places, a copy of the newsletter with David's story found its way to a farm in western Nebraska, to his daughter who was two years old at the time David died.

It took two years for her to make the trip, but in June, Gail Miller and her husband finally made their way to Ames, bringing with them copies of pictures, David's military records and other documentation from his life.



She went first to the fire station to meet Josh and to see the memorial plaque to David that hangs there (left). Then, she traveled downtown to 409 Douglas, the fateful place where her father could not get his foot untangled from an open-tread basement stair in time to save his life. The stairway is still in the same place, with still-

scorched rafters nearby. Then, a trip to the former fire station at 5th and Kellogg (below) where David and his fellow firefighters answered the call on that fateful night of February 15, 1952. The building is now home to Youth & Shelter Services, but the former fire station space is still clearly visible.

This note was received after Gail returned home, "It was a great day! I experienced so many different emotions - a lot to digest. To answer your question, I



got the newsletter from my cousin, Lyla. She is the daughter of Dwight Sills, David's brother who was the



lineman in LeMars. Lyla lives in Fort Collins now but grew up in Ames and moved to Colorado with her husband about 10 years ago. Her mother still lives in Ames and had forwarded the newsletter to Lyla. Let's keep in touch. want to keep our connection going!"

Left – Gail standing at the bottom of that treacherous staircase.

We were pleased to finally get a good

picture of David and more information about his service during WW2 – for which he left Ames High School before graduating. Gail was too young to have known her father - so even after all this time - connecting people to their pasts is a great business to be in!

Iowa Hall of Fame Honoree

On Saturday, August 20, longtime Ames resident, Grace



Amemiya will be inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. The event is at 9:30 am, State Historical Building, 600 E. Locust, Des Moines; free/public event.

Grace was born in 1920 in California to Japanese immigrants. When Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941, she was a 21 year old nursing student in San Francisco. When President Roosevelt authorized the incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese-American Americans, Grace's family was taken to Gila, AZ to one of ten internment camps. While there, Grace used her desperately needed nursing skills. At war's end, Grace was able to complete her training. Based on her experiences in the camp and mothering a disabled son, Grace made two volunteer commitments throughout her life. She was active with organizations helping the disabled and she shared her story of internment with those who were not aware of this injustice – a story of grace, forgiveness and service through hundreds of speeches across Iowa and beyond.

The History Center has her DVD oral history on file. It is available to view on-site or for home loan.

Society News – Around the Ames History Center

View Our New Website!

After more than a year of time-consuming work, the new Society website is up and running!



Ames Historical Society
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONTACT US

HOME ABOUT US ABOUT AMES ARCHIVES & COLLECTIONS GET INVOLVED SHOP VISIT

WHATTOFF MOTORS OPENS
Whattoff Motors opened for business in 1928 on Lincoln Way. In 1936, Joe Whattoff moved to Hayward Avenue and in the late 1930s constructed the present building at 1118 Hayward. He expanded his service station and, along with his sons, started selling Studebakers. They remained at this location until 1956 when they moved to 3625 Lincoln Way. The block will see some changes over the next year as these buildings will be demolished to make way for a new apartment building. This 1954 photo is looking south on Hayward Avenue.

UPCOMING EVENTS
AMES HISTORY CENTER CLOSED
Friday, August 5, 2016 (All day) to Saturday, August 6, 2016 (All day)
GAME DAY AT HOGGATT SCHOOL
Sunday, August 7, 2016 - 2:00pm to 4:00pm
WHAT'S IN YOUR LUNCHBOX?
Sunday, August 14, 2016 - 2:15pm
HISTORY TALK
Thursday, August 25, 2016 - 7:00pm
AMES HISTORY CENTER CLOSED
Saturday, August 27, 2016 - 10:00am to 4:00pm

CURRENT EXHIBITS
FEATURE EXHIBIT:
A TIME OF EXPANSION: THE AMES BUILDING BOOM OF 1915-1916
The years 1915 and 1916 brought great expansion to the city of Ames. In that short time Ames saw the building of the Sheldon-Munn Hotel, a new City Hall, the Masonic Building, and Mary Greeley Hospital. This exhibit focuses on the history of each of these iconic buildings and how they impacted the community at the time. The exhibit includes photos from the buildings' pasts, historical objects representing each building, and fun interactive activities for the whole family. Exhibit sponsored by Mary Greeley Medical Center.
CURRENT SMALLER EXHIBITS INCLUDE:
JULIA LAUGHLIN: AMES' WOMAN STATION MASTER
EARLY AMES AUTOS
NATIVE AMERICAN TOOLS
CENTRAL JUNIOR HIGH

FEATURED CONTENT
2015 Benefit Dinner
Welcome Mr. President
Construction of the Grand Avenue Rail Crossing
Roosevelt School
Bottom of the 9th Two Outs

All the great content users have come to know is still available – but in a friendlier, easy-to-navigate and easy-to-bookmark format. New features include:

- Home page information on events and exhibits
- Home page quick links to the weekly historic picture and a scrolling homepage slideshow
- “About Ames” resources divided into click-through categories rather than long scrolls
- All our Gift Shop items are on view plus online ordering and payment
- Online payment through PayPal for membership renewal, donations, events and workshops

We thank Blue Rock Designs for their work on our very large project and the funders that supported the work: Jeff Benson and Ed Fawkes Memorials, Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program, Altrusa, Greater Iowa Credit Union and Robert Lindemeyer. Please email us at info@ameshistory.org if you encounter problems or can't find something you knew was on the old site.

Kiwanis Paints Again

The Ames Town & Country Kiwanis once again brightened Hoggatt School with a new coat of paint, inside and out, to prepare for the re-opening in June.



Top:
Bill Holt and Don Erickson

Middle, right:
Jack Winkler and Paul Bracklesberrg

Middle, left:
Leo Timms

Above: Don Erickson and Paul Bracklesberg
Our grateful thanks go to these hardy volunteers! The schoolhouse looks so tidy and inviting!

The re-used 1905 vintage Ames pavers were installed to make just the right new/old entrance to Hoggatt School. Central Landscaping of Ames did the installation in time for the re-opening. The brick sidewalk was originally at 6th and Carroll.



Ames Experienced Great Progress in 1915-1916

Excerpted from a 1987 story by Farwell Brown; reprinted in conjunction with the "Expansion" exhibit

I would like to go to a few of the ways in which Ames was progressing at this time.

Captain Wallace Greeley had signed the contract for the construction of the Masonic Building at Douglas and Fifth Street. The building now houses the Octagon Center for the Arts.

The Sheldon-Munn Hotel was under construction. Parley Sheldon, Greeley's banking competitor and another major Ames benefactor of the day, was a major participant in that project.

Sheldon and Greeley had been banking and political competitors through the years, but always were cooperative when it came to the welfare of Ames. [It's possible] that Greeley was motivated by his competitive spirit to choose a hospital to bear the Greeley name.

On August 6, 1915, Ames had celebrated the laying of the cornerstone for a new city hall at Kellogg and Fifth, another visible advance in the annals of our city.

The city-owned light plant that had been the subject of considerable controversy for several years, was being greatly enlarged. The *Tribune* of August 11, 1915, used the word "spectacular" in describing that project.

A new FDDM&S interurban depot was just then announced, to be built where the Greater Iowa Credit Union is located today.

In 1915, Ames had only two paved streets - Main Street in 1910 and Grand Avenue as far north as Ninth in 1911. The August 25, 1915, *Tribune* stated, "Fifth Street between Kellogg and Burnett is being improved. The mud puddle on Fifth Street was improved this week when the hitching racks between Kellogg and Burnett were taken out and the street was graded and cleaned. The racks will be put up again at the end of Burnett just off Main Street." That improvement was brought about as a result of the *Tribune's* campaign for a "decent hitching place where the women from the country would not have to wade ankle-deep in mud and filth in order to hitch their teams."

Ames had come a long way. It was making major moves in the process of becoming a modern city. Very few time periods in the annals of Ames history have equaled the 1915-1916 years.

[When] the city council was discussing paving, there were some protest meetings. Some liked the quiet dirt streets; others wanted to make sure that their street was included in the paving project. On December 29, 1915, the city council voted to pave about six miles of residential streets north of Main Street. That included all of the north-south streets as far north as Thirteenth: Duff, Douglas, Kellogg, Burnett, Clark, Wilson, Grand and Hodge. As a result, the new Mary Greeley Hospital was on a paved street by 1917.

On March 16, 1915, the *Tribune* announced the organization of the Ames Woman's Club. The first project undertaken by the group was to raise the money for a drinking fountain on Main Street.

One of the corners at Douglas and Main was being discussed as a possible location. With Greeley's bank on the northwest corner and Sheldon's bank on the northeast corner, it was logical that these two men might be contacted. The cost of the drinking fountain was estimated to be fifty dollars.

Mrs. Frank Linebaugh, chair of the proposed project, discussed it with her husband. He volunteered to see what those two bankers might be willing to contribute.

Linebaugh knew Greeley well, so he approached the captain. He thought that each of the two bankers might contribute twenty-five dollars. "Which corner will they put it on?" the captain asked. Linebaugh answered, "They talk of putting it in front of the Story County Bank." That was Sheldon's bank.



The captain opened his check book and told Linebaugh to leave Sheldon "out of it." "Put it over here!" he said as he handed Linebaugh his check for fifty dollars. That is how the first drinking fountain on Main Street was placed on Union National Bank's corner.

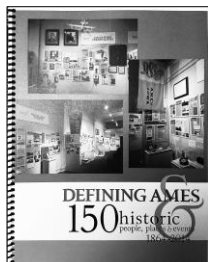
As the story goes, Sheldon was not consulted. Many will recall that the drinking fountain remained on Greeley's corner for many years.

Ames Historical Society
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Museum Shop



THE ENTIRE SHOP may be viewed on our new website – browse and order online!

NEW DVDs: Society-produced: *A Most Magnificent Gift: The Mary Greeley Story; From Farming to Gravel Pit to City Park; The Carr Family and Carr's Pool Story* each \$15

DEFINING AMES: Second Edition
all text from the Sesquicentennial exhibit – just \$10!

GREAT COMBO: 1 lb. bag of Onondaga Blend coffee roasted by Burgie's, bean or ground, \$13 and a hand-thrown Ames mug featuring the Bandshell \$18; deep blue or yellow; great for hostess gifts.

Open Mon-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm or by appointment

Ames Historical Society
Invites You

Number attending _____ x \$60 = \$ _____
I am not able to attend but would like to donate \$ _____

Names of attendees _____
Billing address _____
Email address _____
(circle one)
Check enclosed / MasterCard / Visa
Card number _____
Expiration date _____



RSVP by August 18

Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so can be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

Introductory - 1st year	\$15	Partner	\$250
Basic	\$30	Benefactor	\$500
Friend	\$50	Patron	\$1,000
Sustaining	\$100		

Name _____

Address _____

Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010